

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the application. The following remarks are respectfully submitted.

Claims 1-30 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,730,628 to Hawkins ("Hawkins").

The present invention is directed to a housing portion having a first deflection portion insertable between free ends of a first arm and a second arm and deflecting a connector clip from a first position corresponding to a first distance between the first arm and the second arm of the connector clip, to a second position corresponding to a second distance between the first arm and the second arm.

Hawkins teaches a plurality of integral resilient spring elements 64 extending from the base element at a plurality of circumferentially spaced locations to tip ends 66 freely received in the annular recess 58 for limited transverse movement between the second cylindrical passage 52 and the annular flange 56. The leaf spring elements 64 have contact portions 68 intermediate the base element 62 and the tip ends 66 which project and are biased toward the longitudinal axis of the barrel for mating engagement with a proximal end of the electrical lead 22, specifically with the second contact 32 when inserted into the barrel from the distal end 48 and generally aligned with the longitudinal axis of the barrel.

Therefore, Hawkins merely teaches contacts portions formed at inwardly directed curved portions to be biased towards the longitudinal axis so as to make contact with the lead when inserted. For the sake of argument, although not specifically taught by Hawkins, if one were to assume that the spring elements 64 were deflected inward towards the longitudinal axis by the wall of the barrel 44 forming the inward passage 50, and therefore the wall is the deflection portion, such deflection portion is not insertable between the free ends of the spring elements, as set forth in claim 1 of the present invention. Therefore, Hawkins

does not teach a first deflection portion insertable between free ends of a first arm and a second arm and deflecting a connector clip from a first position corresponding to a first distance between the first arm and the second arm of the connector clip, to a second position corresponding to a second distance between the first arm and the second arm. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The provisional rejections of the claims on the basis of judicially created obviousness typed double patenting based upon Application Nos. 10/632,058 and 10/632,026 are noted. Both of those applications are still pending, and claims have not yet been allowed in either case. Therefore, response to the provisional rejections is not necessary at this time.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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